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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Hans Nusskern, Viktor Dahm  
Serial No. : To Be Assigned  
Filed : January 12, 2001  
For : MECHANICAL CONNECTING ELEMENT  
Group Art Unit : N/A  
Examiner : N/A

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January 16, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56 and § 1.97(b), Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the references listed below.

USP 4,296,955

WO 96/27744

WO 89/12175

DE 30 07 307 A1

T.W. Duerig and A.R. Pelton, Ti-Ni Shape Memory Alloys, Materials Properties Handbook: Titanium Alloys, 1994, pp. 1035-1048.

Copies of these references are submitted herewith along with Form PTO-1449.

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The relevance of the listed references is as follows.

Each of the references were cited in the Search Report issued by the European Patent Office. A copy of this Search Report is enclosed. For the Examiner's information, the designation "X" on the Search Report is translated to mean the document is "particularly relevant if taken alone"; "Y" means "particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category"; "A" means "technological background"; "O" means "non-written disclosure"; "P" means "intermediate document"; "T" means "theory or principle underlying the invention"; "E" means "earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date"; "D" means "document cited in the application"; and "L" means "document cited for other reasons".

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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